

**STUDENT WORKSHEET**

# THE STROOP EFFECT



## BACKGROUND

In this activity you will do some psychological tests to investigate the Stroop Effect.

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Coloured pens
- Pieces of card
- Stopwatch

## FIND OUT MORE

The Stroop Effect can be used to find out how quickly you can process information. The Stroop Effect is also used to diagnose and monitor some brain diseases, and in scientific research.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Original materials  
by British Science  
Association.

Find out more at

[www.britishsienceassociation.org/british-science-week](http://www.britishsienceassociation.org/british-science-week)

### Part 1

## What is the Stroop Effect?

Name the text colour of each word in the two lists as quickly as possible.

#### List 1

red green  
orange blue

#### List 2

green blue  
orange red

Which list was harder? Why?

You experience the Stroop Effect because the meanings of the words conflict with their colours. Your brain automatically reads the word first, so you have to make a choice between the two sources of information. This means that it takes longer to work out the correct answer.

### Part 2

## Testing the Stroop Effect

In a pair, design and do a simple test to examine the Stroop Effect, and to see if it affects you.

### Part 3

## Extending the test

Can you think of any other ways that we might experience the Stroop Effect? Here are some things you could test:

How many times is each word repeated?

**QUIET!**  
loud

seven four five  
seven four five  
four five five  
five

Think of a scientific question you could answer to find out something else about the Stroop Effect. You could explore using different languages, or adding sounds.

**Practical or investigation**

**Group discussion task**